

Message Text

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ORIGIN L-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 OES-07 /044 R

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-----007901 312317Z /66

O R 312245Z AUG 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY DACCA

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GENEVA PASS GUDGEON AND HOLD FOR HOINKES

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, UN, OCON, BG

SUBJECT: UN WATER CONFERENCE REPORT--SHARED NATURAL
RESOURCES

REF: NAIROBI 11188

1. WE CAN ACCEPT GENERALIZED CONFERENCE ENDORSEMENT OF
PRINCIPLES LAID DOWN AT MAR DEL PLATA ON INTERNATIONAL
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COOPERATION RELATING TO SHARED WATER RESOURCES.

2. WITH RESPECT TO TEXT OF BANGLADESH PROPOSAL:

A. USG WOULD PREFER DELETION FROM PREAMBLE OF
"HAVING EXPERIENCED VARYING DEGREES OF ARBITRARY USE OF
SHARED WATER RESOURCES, SETTING OFF A PROCESS OF

DESERTIFICATION." WHILE WE CAN ACCEPT PRINCIPLE
OF "EQUITABLE UTILIZATION OF INTERNATIONAL WATER
RESOURCES," WE CANNOT ACCEPT CLAUSE "COLLECTIVELY ENSURE"
SINCE THIS MAY IMPLY USG ENDORSEMENT OF UN INVOLVEMENT IN
PARTICULAR ISSUES. WE WOULD PREFER DELETION OF
"CONTROLLED" BEFORE "MANAGEMENT" AND ENDING SENTENCE AFTER
"BONDS OF COOPERATION." NEXT SENTENCE WOULD BEGIN "IN
PURSUANCE..." (USDEL SHOULD BE AWARE THAT THIS PARA
WILL PROBABLY BE HIGHLY CONTROVERSIAL, WITH BRAZIL, INDIA,
AND PERHAPS CANADA OBJECTING.)
B. IF "IMPERATIVE AND URGENT" IS REPLACED BY
"HIGHLY DESIRABLE" WE CAN SUPPORT RECOMMENDATION 19(A).
SECOND SENTENCE SHOULD BE REVISED: "THEREFORE, THE
WORK OF THE ILC SHOULD BE EXPEDITIOUSLY ADVANCED."

C. RECOMMENDATION 19(B) SHOULD BE MODIFIED. UNEP
IS CURRENTLY SPONSORING WORK OF GOVERNMENT EXPERTS TO
PREPARE PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES IN THE FIELD OF THE
ENVIRONMENT CONCERNING NATURAL RESOURCES SHARED BY
TWO OR MORE STATES. THREE SESSIONS OF THIS GROUP HAVE
BEEN HELD IN 1976-1977, WITH THE NEXT SESSION
SCHEDULED TO BE HELD SEPTEMBER 5-16, 1977, IN GENEVA.
WE OPPOSE ASKING THE UN TO DUPLICATE WORK ALREADY UNDER
WAY IN UNEP. WE FURTHER OPPOSE BEGINNING WORK ON A
"CODE OF CONDUCT" SINCE (A) THE UNEP PRINCIPLES/
GUIDELINES EXERCISE IS UNDER WAY, (B) SUCH AN EXERCISE
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COULD DUPLICATE AND POSSIBLY PREEMPT OR CONFLICT WITH
WORK OF ILC. MOREOVER, THERE IS NO REASON TO BELIEVE
THAT A CODE OF CONDUCT COULD BE COMPLETED ANY MORE
QUICKLY THAN A CONVENTION. WE RECOMMEND REVISION OF THE
PARAGRAPH ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES:

"19(B). UNTIL AN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION IS
FRAMED, THE WORK OF THE UNEP INTERGOVERNMENTAL WORKING
GROUP OF EXPERTS SHOULD BE EXPEDITED WITH A VIEW TO
EARLY COMPLETION OF PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES IN THE
FIELD OF THE ENVIRONMENT CONCERNING NATURAL RESOURCES
SHARED BY TWO OR MORE STATES."

3. IF ABOVE MODIFICATIONS CANNOT BE MADE, USDEL
SHOULD ABSTAIN IF CURRENT PROPOSAL IS BROUGHT TO VOTE.
WITH ABOVE CHANGES, USDEL MAY VOTE IN FAVOR. CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 31-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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From: STATE
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